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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE:

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SUBJECT Harvesting Problems

DIST. ¹⁵ September 1947

PAGES

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1. Throughout the country the Bulgarian government is employing the armed forces, the labor army and the youth brigades to gather in the new harvest. Even small holders are not exempt from this imposition.
2. The purpose of the measure is to have the harvest either taken by troops directly to prearranged dumps, or guarded in the fields where it has been gathered. The wheat is finally sent to government depots.
3. All this has not, however, prevented sabotage by the peasants, who are themselves thus deprived of the fruit of their year's labor. Numerous fires in cornfields have occurred, corn has been stolen during the night, and peasants have left wheat lying here and there in stalks along their fields for gathering after the departure of the government controllers.
4. ^{1,500} farmers or peasants have been arrested for sabotage, 45 village mayors dismissed for dereliction of duty or favoritism shown to private owners, and 350 cases of firing of wheat dumps have occurred in the country. It is, however, estimated that the number of cases of wheat dumps fired is double that of the official figure.
5. From information now available, it is clear that the government has not been able to meet the requirements of the Two Year Plan and assure a supply of grain sufficient for the next year. The deficit amounts to more than 35 percent.

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